

Media Release

Contact:
Dee Baecher-Brown
President, CFVI
Phone: (340) 774-6031
Fax: (340) 774-3852
Email: dbrown@cfvi.net

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE ANNUAL DRURY FUND “COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS”

(St. Thomas, V.I.) – After careful consideration, the Drury Fund Selection Committee has chosen the recipients of the “Community Impact Grants” from the Drury Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI). A total of **\$19,160** was awarded to individuals and organizations working to implement innovative projects in the areas of public education, children’s well-being or youth sports in St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island, announced CFVI’s President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

Community Impact Grants of up to \$5,000 each were awarded on a competitive basis to individuals and organizations that submitted applications. The recipients of the Drury Fund “Community Impact Grants,” ranged from after-school programs to football leagues. The criteria used to select the recipients included clear and organized project descriptions, volunteer involvement in the project, use of creative strategies and activities, measurable and substantive outcomes, and a realistic budget with an efficient use of funds.

“This is the second year we have offered these grants. We were very pleased with the number of applications we received and the commitment in our community to providing opportunities for youth. We are delighted to be able to help fund these innovative projects,” said Paco Rivera on behalf of the fund donor, Drury Capital, Inc.

The first of six groups to receive a grant was the **Lighthouse Mission** in St. Croix, which received a **\$3,000** grant. The Mission operates an after-school program that currently serves approximately 30 children. The grant will help buy basketball backboards and a water fountain for their recreation yard. Volunteers from the community will assist in the installation of the new equipment.

\$2,500 was awarded to the **St. Croix Tennis Association** for their USA Team Tennis League for Youth. This after-school program plans to reach out to approximately 85 disadvantaged youth, ages 6-14, by teaching tennis fundamentals and engaging them in team activities and competitive matches. The funds will be used to provide instructors, equipment and transportation.

The **Women's Coalition of St. Croix** was awarded a **\$5,000** grant. In partnership with the Youth Rehabilitation Center and Project U.S.E., they will offer a week-long experiential based learning project to assist approximately 50 young men in developing teamwork, confidence, problem solving and anger management skills through participating in rope challenge courses, rock climbing and rappelling. The grant will be used towards the cost of housing and travel for off-island organizers, course fees and supplies.

The **American Legion Viggo E. Sewer Post #131** in St. John received a grant of **\$5,000** for their Co-Ed Flag Football Project. 40-60 children, ages 9-14 from St. John and St. Thomas, will participate in this co-ed flag football league during the spring and fall of 2007. A primary goal of the project is to bring children and parents together in an event that requires active participation. The funds will be used to purchase equipment, uniforms, trophies, printing, and supplies and to cover administrative costs.

The **Savan Boys Club** in St. Thomas received a **\$1,000** grant. They opened in November 2006 at the Romeo Malone Community Center in Savan. Modeled after the Boys Clubs of the United States, this organization offers an alternative to drugs and peer pressure by providing a safe haven for approximately 30 young men from the community. The grant will be used to purchase a keyboard for the club's music program.

\$2,660 was awarded to the **St. Thomas Bowling League**. This program will benefit 18 children, ages 7-18, as they participate in a 6-month bowling program intended to provide a wholesome outlet for social interaction and to promote self-esteem, responsibility and team cooperation. The funds will be used to subsidize the cost of renting lanes and shoes, and to purchase a t-shirt for each participant.

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands was established in 1990 to serve the children and families of the Virgin Islands. Currently there are more than 80 named funds at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. Last year, CFVI provided **more than \$1.2 million** in grants, scholarships and program support in the USVI.

CFVI accepts donations year round. If you would like information on how to make a contribution to your community please call CFVI at 774-6031 or visit their website at www.cfvi.net.